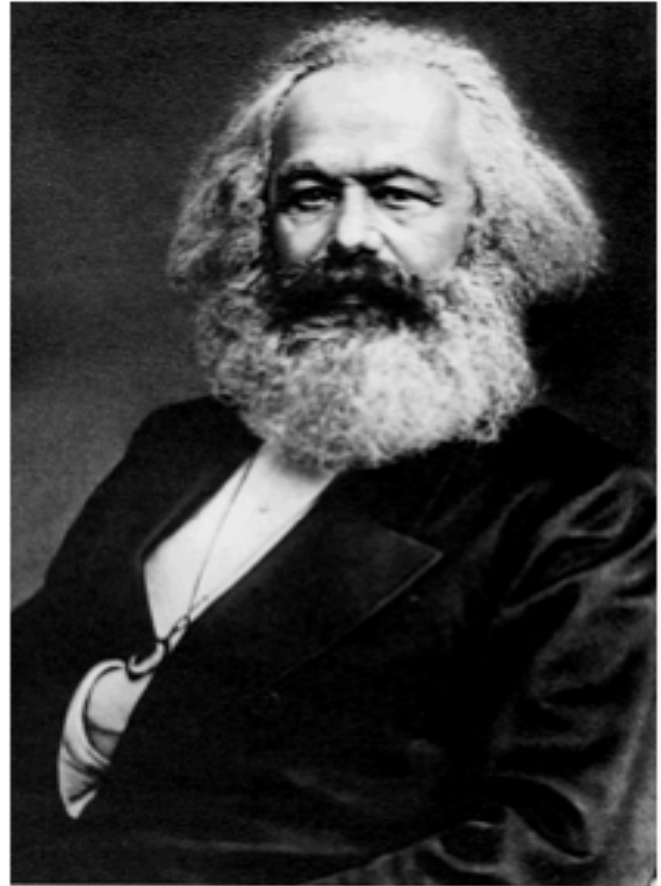


Marxism



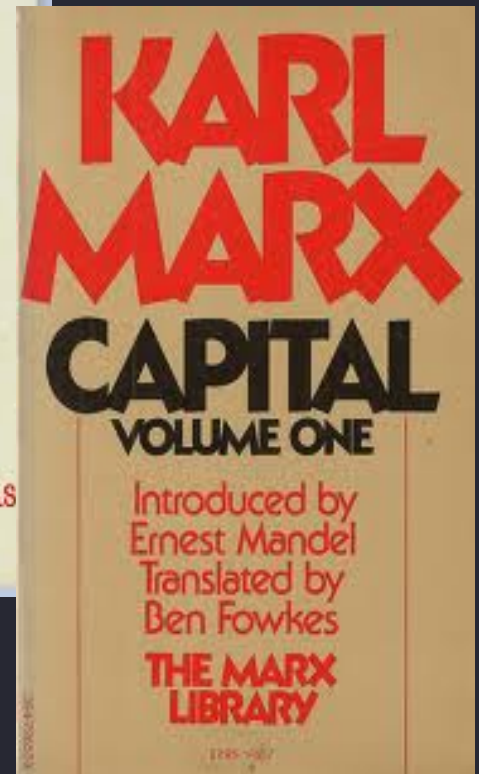
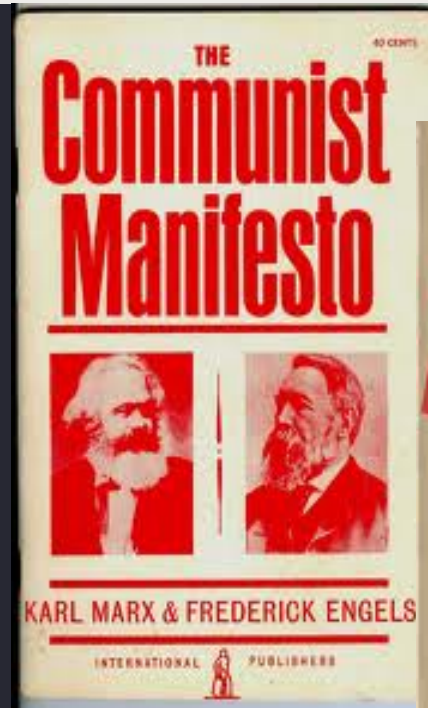
Key Themes

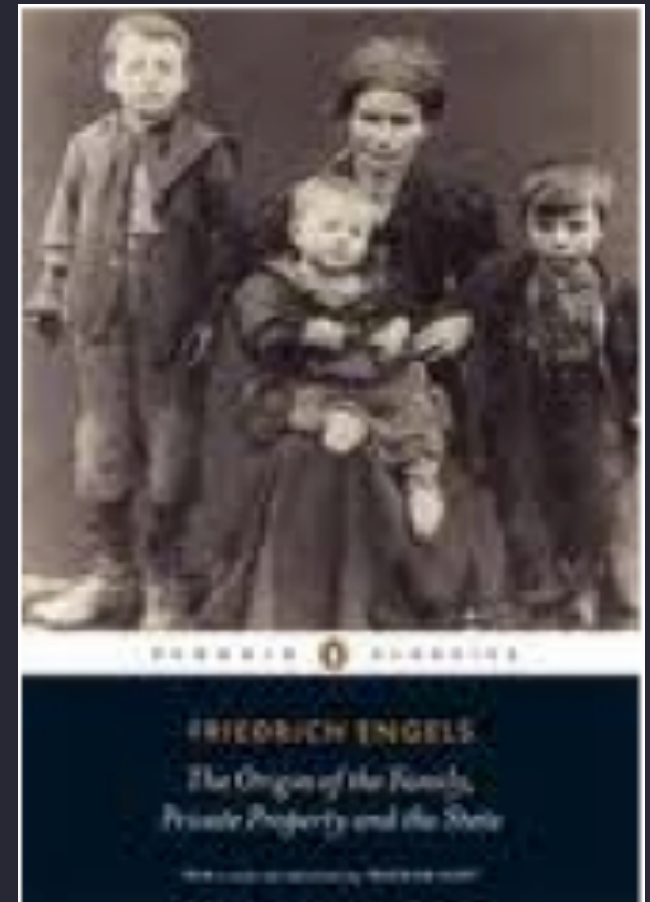
- ❑ Introduction to Marx and his theories
- ❑ Tackle some of the terminology
- ❑ The relevance of Marx today



Introducing Karl Marx

- The father of communism
- Radical thinker
 - Situated between philosophy and economics
- Born 1818 in Trier, died 1883 in London
- Most famous works are;
 - Communist Manifesto (co-written with Engels)
 - Das Capital (written between 1850s and his death, finished by Engels)





Placing Marx in Context

- ❑ Rapid social change in Europe
 - ❑ Industrial Revolution
 - ❑ Downfall of the monarchy and feudalism post French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars
- ❑ Growth of factories
- ❑ Increasing urbanisation
- ❑ Invention of the steam engine
- ❑ Transformation of social and working life
 - ❑ Emergence of a 'working class'



The Communist Manifesto

- ❑ Described the capitalist system and its emergence
- ❑ Described the creation of the **proletariat** (working classes)
- ❑ Explained conflict between the proletariat and the **bourgeoisie** (ruling class)
- ❑ Criticised objections to communism
- ❑ Presented the idea of revolution
- ❑ Explained how communism would work

The
proletarians
have nothing to
lose but their
chains. They
have a world to
win. Working
men of all



Class Conflict under Capitalism

- ❑ Between those that own the **means of production** and those that do not.
- ❑ Means of production defined as land, factories and raw materials
- ❑ Class defined in economic terms
- ❑ In relation to the means of production



The Seeds of Capitalism's Destruction



- ❑ Conflicting Aims
 - ❑ Profit Vs Living Conditions
- ❑ Class Struggle
- ❑ Result is revolution
- ❑ The need for **class consciousness**

A Dialectical View of History

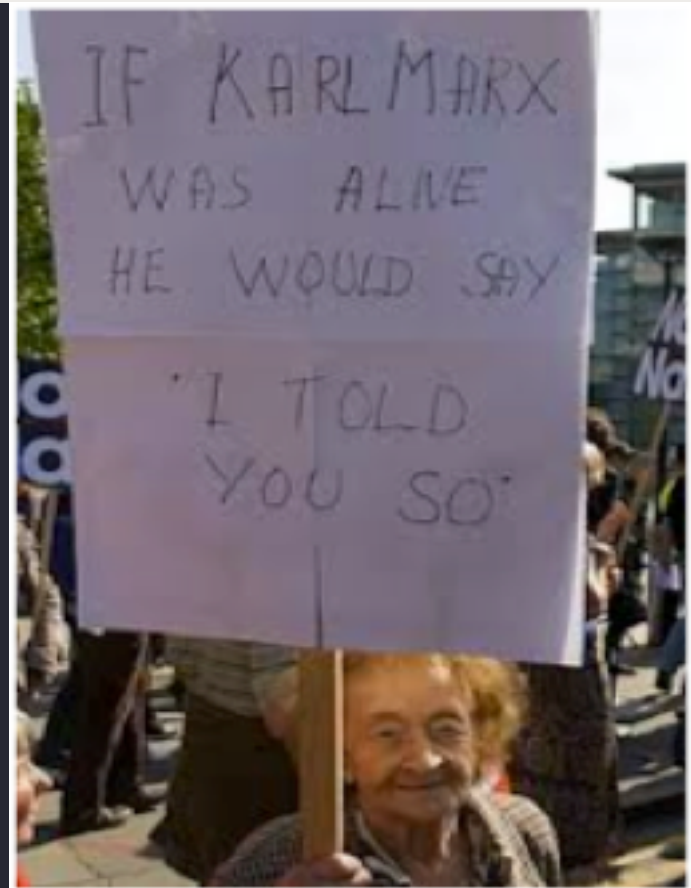


- ❑ Inherent contradictions in systems
- ❑ Hunter Gatherers
- ❑ Feudalism
- ❑ Capitalism
- ❑ Communism



Capitalism in Crisis

- ❑ Workers wages will fall
- ❑ Profits will fall
- ❑ Large companies will consume the small
- ❑ Greater divisions in society
- ❑ Increasing number of economic crises
- ❑ Workers will be so degraded they will rise up in revolution





Revolution is not just desirable it is inevitable

“The history of all hitherto existing societies has been a history of class struggle” (Communist Manifesto)

The Stripping of **False Consciousness**

- ❑ The way people think is shaped by **ideology**
- ❑ Ideology is determined by the economic base
 - ❑ The way the economy is structured
- ❑ **Materialist** view
- ❑ People believe that society is fixed and cannot be changed
- ❑ But their beliefs are artificially constructed and manipulated

False beliefs or values created by society

- ❑ Capitalists control information, education and entertainment
- ❑ The way to counteract this was through worker education
- ❑ So workers could understand they were exploited



“Religion is the opium of the people”



- ❑ Religion is part of the ideological makeup of society
- ❑ It is illusory; people do not realise they are not free
- ❑ Religion is another form of alienation

Alienation

- ❑ Workers are alienated from the products they make
 - ❑ Because they do not benefit from them
- ❑ Factory system alienates and depersonalises workers
- ❑ No control over working conditions and gain little satisfaction
- ❑ Division of labour
- ❑ No awareness of exploitation



Capitalism Enslaves....

- Creates consumer desire to acquire goods
- So, we have to work for money to acquire these commodities
- The goods workers produce eventually enslave them



Commodity and Money Fetishism

- ❑ Money and goods become desired in their own right
- ❑ The illusion that money and objects have powerful properties of their own
- ❑ Deceives workers
 - ❑ See their goal as money
- ❑ See a part, not the whole



Labour Power

- ❑ We don't see labour relations when we buy a object
- ❑ Under capitalism, we sell our labour
- ❑ Labour becomes a commodity in its own right
- ❑ It is given a price
- ❑ We **alienate** our labour



Surplus Value

- ❑ By hiring a worker, the worker's **labour power** belongs to the capitalist
- ❑ Difference between;
 - ❑ The value of the wage the worker gets
 - ❑ The value they create
- ❑ The difference is surplus value
- ❑ Surplus value = profit
- ❑ A worker works a day for £10
- ❑ But in that day the worker makes a good that sells for £15
- ❑ The £5 is surplus value
- ❑ Which goes to the capitalist.....

Is Marx Relevant Today?

- ❑ Continuation and expansion of capitalism
- ❑ His understanding of history and economics is debated
- ❑ He is a product of his time too
- ❑ The collapse of communism



But.....

- ❑ Marx inspired and continued to inspire social change
- ❑ Made us aware that society can be changed by changing the economic system
- ❑ Gives us an understanding of 'freedom' and what it means to be free



The Relevance of Marx

- ❑ Class struggle and the forms it takes
- ❑ Class is determined by people's relations to the means of production
 - ❑ Economically determined
- ❑ How society is shaped by economic structures
- ❑ Values and beliefs – ideology – is shaped by, and works in tandem with, economic relations
- ❑ Insights into inequalities, exploitation and alienation



SORRY FOR THE
INCONVENIENCE
WE ARE TRYING TO
CHANGE THE WORLD